

Date: 12/24/25 Season: CHRISTMAS EVE (WHITE)

PASTOR	Rev. Orin W Cummings, PhD	VICAR	Abbey Knappman
ASSISTING	David Siewert	LECTOR	Mary Keidle
ACOLYTE	Shepherds	ORGANIST	Marilyn Boston
CANTOR	Alleluia Singers	A/V	Kenny Lourwood, Drew Bowman
DISTRIBUTION MINISTERS			Vicar Abbey, David S., Mary K., Genny M.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Melody Bober	Nathanael Cummings Piano Solo
Christmas Medley	String Ensemble
Marty Bowman, Michael Russell-Rivera, Lucy Stillwell	
O Holy Night arr. Beatrice Miller	Piano Quartet
Nathanael Cummings, Sheryl Hansen, Marcie Rosenkoetter, Karen Bowman	
A Hallelujah Christmas arr. Wyatt Vanover	Jacob-Russell-Rivera-Vocal So
A Christmas Carillon arr. Margaret Tucker	Joy Ringers
West Indies Carol arr. Sondra Tucker	Joy Ringers
Still, Still, Still arr. Cathy Moklebust	Joy Ringers

**PRELUDE****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****GATHERING***The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Lights in the sanctuary are extinguished*)

As early Christians lit their candles and lamps at sunset  
 and remembered that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
 we hear these words of promise, hope and fulfillment:  
 "The light shines in the darkness,  
 and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5)

**ADVENT AIR**

It's at tis time, it's in this place, that we await His  
 presence, we a-wait His presence, His presence is here now,  
 1. We're waiting for His Hope  
 2. We listen for His peace  
 3. Be glad we know His joy  
 Now we proclaim His love

We welcome you O Christ, Light of the World.  
In the midst of our suffering,  
help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

SONG

**Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory**

(Candle Walls are Lit)

**ELW 561**

1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev -'ry danc - ing star of

face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us

ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -

round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it

God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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## CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;**  
**we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;**  
**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**  
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.**  
**We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;**  
**our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;**  
**our reluctance to embody your good news.**  
**Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**  
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
Amen.

(During the singing of Hymn, Christmas Trees are lit)

## HYMN

## LOVE HAS COME

## ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the  
 Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has  
 brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to  
 proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and  
 reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

(During the hymn, we turn on the lights on the altar)

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## Come, Adore Christ the Lord

## Alleluia Singers

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### THE FIRST READING FROM ISAIAH 52:7-10

**7** How beautiful upon the mountains  
    are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
    who brings good news,  
    who announces salvation,  
    who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
**8** Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;  
    together they shout for joy,  
    for in plain sight they see  
        the return of the LORD to Zion.  
**9** Break forth; shout together for joy,  
    you ruins of Jerusalem,  
    for the LORD has comforted his people;  
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
**10** The LORD has bared his holy arm  
    before the eyes of all the nations,  
    and all the ends of the earth shall see  
        the salvation of our God.

**The Word of the Lord**  
**Thanks be to God.**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Bethlehem, O Bethlehem

Alleluia Singers

### GOSPEL

**Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.**  
**The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. **6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

**The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Vicar Abbey Knappman

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**O Holy Night**

**Nathan Cornelius**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.**

**A brief silence.**

**Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares especially in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Americas. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling especially Janet Pennel, Jackie Kellie, Terrence Kissoon, Steve Moore, Dave Pope, Shirley Michael, Lynn Russell, Pastor Mike, Marilyn, Sam Coryell, Sally McCarville, Norma Isenberg, Bruce Whiting, Jessica Smith, Jim Shoelpple, Christine Kennedy, Gabe Derr, Jacob Russell-Rivera, Juanita Steinbaugh, Andrew Langr, Ray Hollingstad, Mark Krueger, Bob White, Tommy Brewer, and Beverly Carlson. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

**Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed, especially CJ Hankins. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.**

**Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts,  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly      Lord      God of hosts.  
San - to, San - to, San - to es el Se - ñor, Dios de U - ni - ver-so.

Heav - en and earth, heav - en and earth are full of your  
Lle - nos es - tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
glo - ria. Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. Ben -

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
san - na en el cie - lo. Ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:**  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever.**  
**men.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**  
**LAMB OF GOD**

**CORDERO DE DIOS**

*Cantor:*

*Assembly / Asamblea:*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,  
Cor - de - ro de Dios, que qui-tas el pe - ca - do del mun - do,

world, have mer - cy on us.  
mun - do, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.

*To repeat*

*Cantor:*

*Assembly / Asamblea:*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,  
Cor - de - ro de Dios, que qui-tas el pe - ca - do del mun - do,

grant da - nos us la peace, grant da - nos us la peace.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 295

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3. This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'r, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 promised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - silent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**ELW 279**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

**TABLE BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.  
Amen.

**HYMN**

**ELW 281**

**Silent Night, Holy Night!  
*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!***

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

The triune God,  
The glorious and mysterious One,  
The Holy Incarnate One,  
And the abiding Comforter,  
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 267**

#### **Joy to the World**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

TRADITIONAL w/HOLY COMMUNION  
Wednesday 10:00 p.m.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN ELCA

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Guided by the Gospel, we:**  
**Welcome all to worship;**  
**Make disciples;**  
**Hunger for ministry;**  
**Nurture youth;**  
**Gather resources for growing ministries;**  
**Offer healing and care to all in need.**

## DISMISSAL

**Glory to God in the highest!**  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
**Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## OFFERING

*(Please place gifts in the plates as you leave)*

## POSTLUDE